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MEDIA RELEASE
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NORTH HAMPTON MAN SENTENCED ON “CRACK” COCAINE CHARGES

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney for the District of New Hampshire Tom Colantuono, Drug Enforcement Administration Special Agent in Charge Mark Trouville and North Hampton Police Chief Robbie Dirsra announce that Hector Cruz, of North Hampton, New Hampshire, was sentenced today to 37 months in federal prison by United States District Court Chief Judge Paul Barbadoro.

Cruz pleaded guilty before Chief Judge Barbadoro on July 29, 2003, to a charge of possession with intent to distribute “crack” cocaine. His prison sentence will be followed by three (3) years of supervised release.

Cruz was initially arrested by North Hampton Police on November 20, 2002, after police responded to a hotel room in North Hampton based on a complaint by hotel management. Cruz was found unconscious in the room, surrounded by significant quantities of cocaine, “crack” cocaine, and drug paraphernalia. Further evidence proved that Cruz was involved in selling “crack” to others from the hotel room. U.S. Attorney Colantuono said, “This case should send a message to anyone in the seacoast and this state, who is intent on selling illegal drugs. Federal, state and local law enforcement are focused on putting an end to this and will continue to remain dedicated to this mission. People who sell drugs will go to prison.”

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Mark E. Howard.